

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 INR-07 EPG-02 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03

/051 W

-----130002Z 079278 /15

O R 122311Z MAY 77 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 400

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PERTH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 3388

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, AS

SUBJECT: AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS STRIKE

REF: STATE 107853 (NOTAL)

1. VOTE OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS TO TAKE PLACE TODAY, FRIDAY, WILL DETERMINE WHETHER STRIKE ENDS TODAY OR CONTINUES INDEFINITELY. OUTCOME OF VOTE LIKELY TO BE KNOWN BY 6 P.M. AUSTRALIA TIME, MAY 13. ACCORDINGLY, SPECULATION ON PROBABILITIES IN EXCEEDINGLY COMPLICATED SITUATION NOT USEFUL.

2. IT IS CORRECT THAT GOVERNMENT AND CONTROLLERS HAVE AGREED ON FOUR ROUND-TRIP FLIGHTS TO BE FLOWN BY QANTAS TO EASE BACKLOG OF STRANDED PASSENGERS BOUND TO AND FROM
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AUSTRALIA. TWO FLIGHTS WILL PROCEED FROM AUSTRALIA TO SINGAPORE AND RETURN, ONE FLIGHT AUSTRALIA TO FIJI AND RETURN, AND ONE FLIGHT AUSTRALIA TO HONG KONG AND RETURN. DETAILS AND EXACT TIMING THESE FOUR FLIGHTS NOT YET CLEAR. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THERE IS NO LIMITATION TO AUSTRALIAN NATIONALS. EMBASSY HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING IN VERY CONFUSED SITUATION TO FIND OUT PRECISELY HOW PASSENGERS WILL BE

SELECTED AND HAS CONVEYED TO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT ITS VIEW THAT THE APPROXIMATE 1500 SEATS OUT OF AUSTRALIA SHOULD BE AVAILABLE ON SOME EQUITABLE BASIS TO PASSENGERS DRAWN FROM BACKLOG OF EACH INTERNATIONAL CARRIER. EMBASSY WAS ADVISED THAT QANTAS WAS MEETING LATE MAY 12 WITH ALL INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS TO DISCUSS METHOD OF SELECTION. WE ARE SEEKING CONFIRMATION FROM PAN AM OF THIS FACT AND ITS OUTCOME.

3. EMBASSY CONSULTED PAN AM WHEN FOUR FLIGHTS ANNOUNCED TO OBTAIN ITS VIEW ON GOA DECISION TO ALLOCATE ALL FOUR FLIGHTS TO QANTAS. PAN AM SYDNEY MANAGEMENT ADVISED US THEY DID NOT WISH TO QUESTION THIS ALLOCATION BUT AGREED WITH US THAT IN EVENT ANY ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS OF THIS TYPE AUTHORIZED, WE SHOULD PRESS FOR PROPER PARTICIPATION BY OTHER INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS. EMBASSY PLANS TO TAKE UP MATTER WITH DFA MORNING OF 13TH, EXPRESSING OUR VIEW (1) THAT EQUITABLE PROVISION IN FOUR OUTGOING FLIGHTS NOW AUTHORIZED SHOULD BE MADE FOR STRANDED PASSENGERS OF ALL INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS AND (2) THAT IN EVENT ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS AUTHORIZED SUITABLE PROVISION SHOULD BE MADE FOR EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION BY OTHER INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS.

4. WE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH SITUATION DURING BALANCE OF 13TH AND WILL REPORT FURTHER AS SITUATION CLARIFIES.
PERCIVAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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